

ADDISON PLANTATION
18PR175

SUMMARY OF CHARCOAL AND NON-CARBONIZED WOOD FROM FEATURE 6

Excavation of feature 6 resulted in the recovery of a large amount of wood. All wood material examined was associated with house construction. When ever possible species identification was attempted. These field identifications were done on the wood cross sections, using a hand lens or un-aided eye. As no comparative collection was available, (except for a felled black locust), results are viewed as tentative. Samples were compared to illustrations in; WOOD IDENTIFICATION HANDBOOK: commercial woods of the Eastern United States, by Marshall S. White, Colonial Hardwoods, Inc. 1980.

Wood can be broken down into two categories; softwoods (Gymnosperms, ex. conifers) and hardwoods (Angiosperms, ex. most deciduous trees). The difference between the two types is basically the presence or absence of pores or vessels, Angiosperms having vessels or pores present. The terms hard or soft ~~do~~ not refer to the characteristic of the wood. On the family level, differences in the make up of wood structure can be observed fairly easily by comparing the presence or absence of vessels and pores to differentiate hard and soft woods. In addition the patterns the above make in the early and late wood allow for the identification of hardwoods. Soft woods also can be identified by their structure and the occurrence of resin canals in some species.

Colonial builders it can be assumed used materials which were suited to there task. In the Middle Atlantic a small number of tree species have certain properties which make them decay resistant. As a tree grows only the outside layers of wood are alive (sapwood), the interior dead layers (heartwood) accumulate chemical byproducts and wastes from the tree hence certain species have a different colored heartwood, black walnut for example. In some cases these properties resist decay or destruction by insects, (good examples are red cedar and black locust). Presumably builders would have selected for these long lasting species when construction called for durable long lasting wood. This appears to be the case at feature 6.

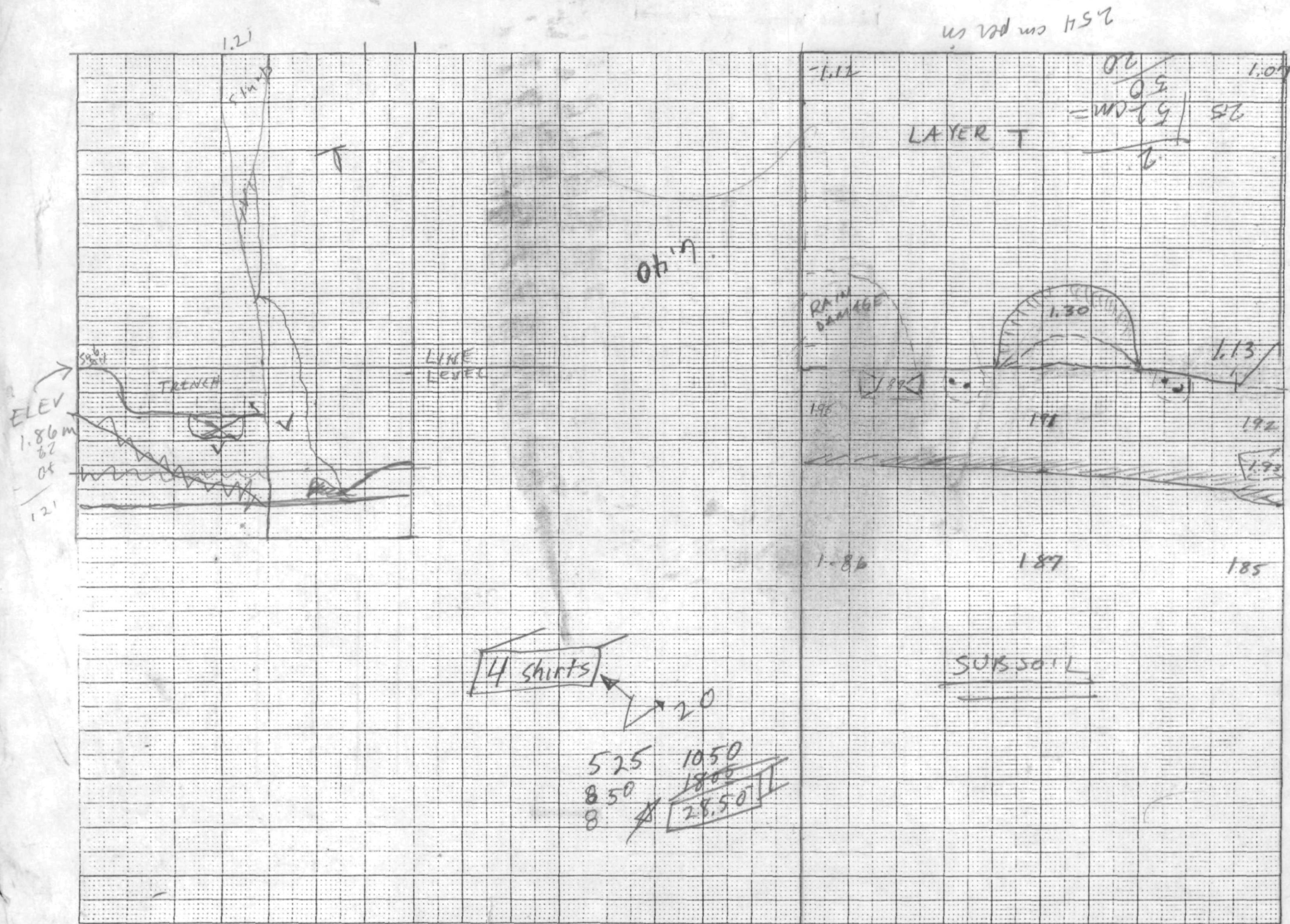
The ground sills which have been excavated have been constructed of: Red Cedar (*Juniperus virginians*), Black Locust (*Rubinia pseudoacacia*), and in one case possibly Sassafras (*Sassafras albidum*).

The stairway to the underground passage way was constructed of Red Cedar.

Posts were constructed mainly of Black Locust, Red Cedar, and in one case American Chestnut (*Castanea dentata*).

The general Charcoal debris on the cellar floor consisted mainly of Red Cedar, with Black Locust occurring in the minority. In addition one example of Black Walnut (*Juglans nigra*) was observed.

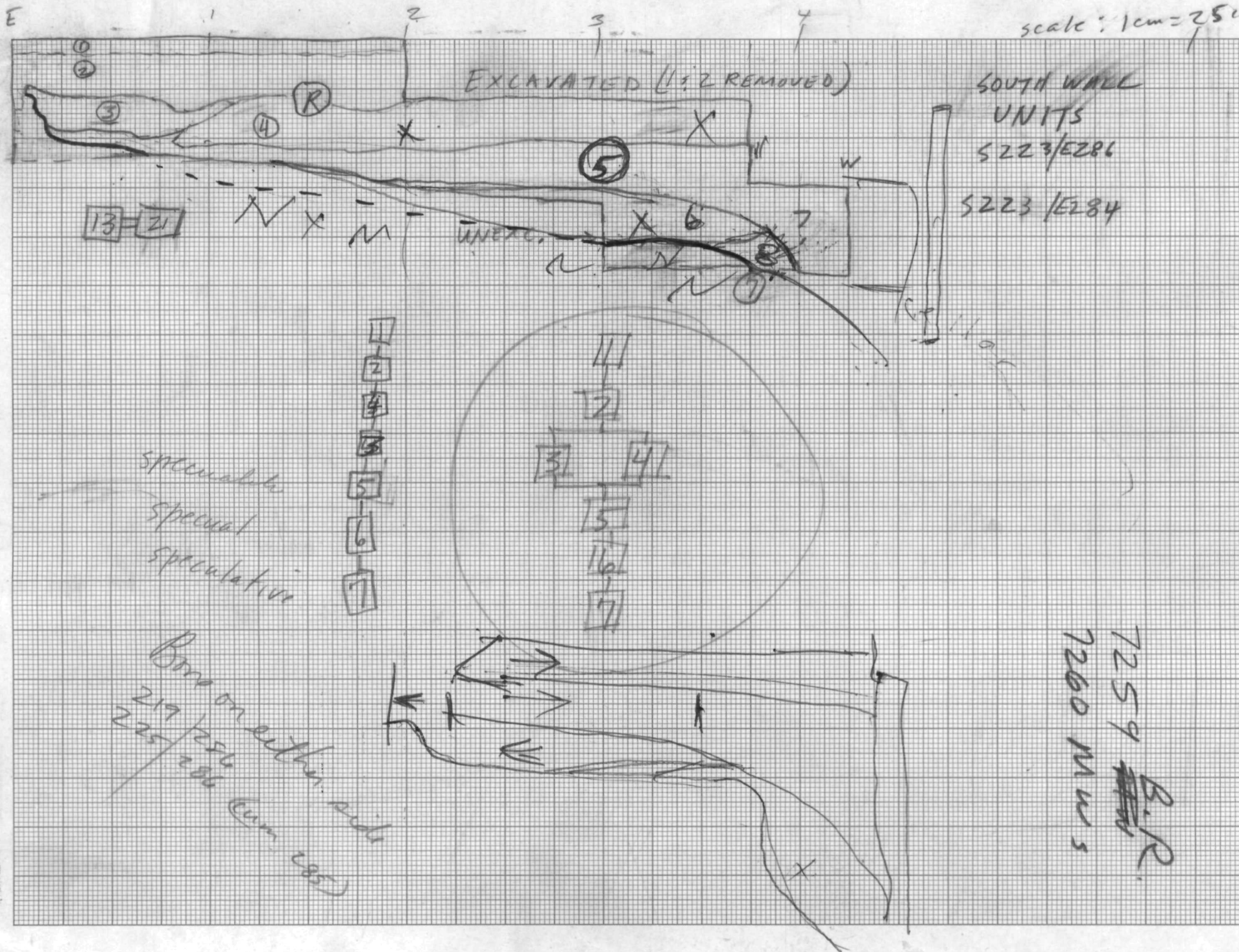
The impression of a barrel was found in the cellar floor only what appeared to be a wooden barrel stay was observed, it



25 acres
4

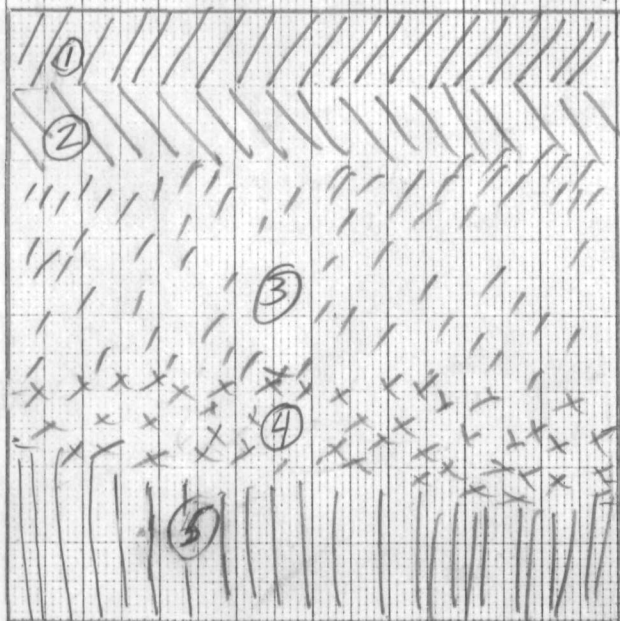
46 1521

scale: 1cm = 25cm



SECTION: EAST WALL OF E/W TRENCH

SCALE:
1cm =
25cm.



① and ②
previously excavated not present in
profile

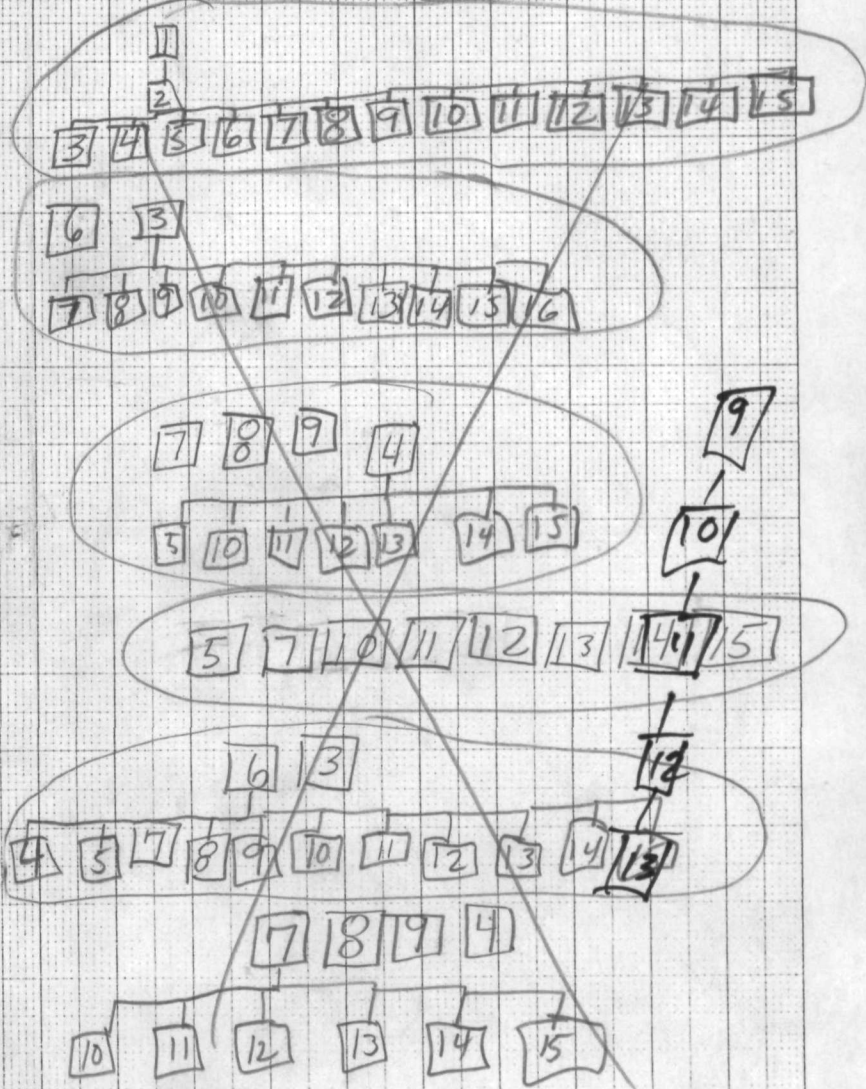
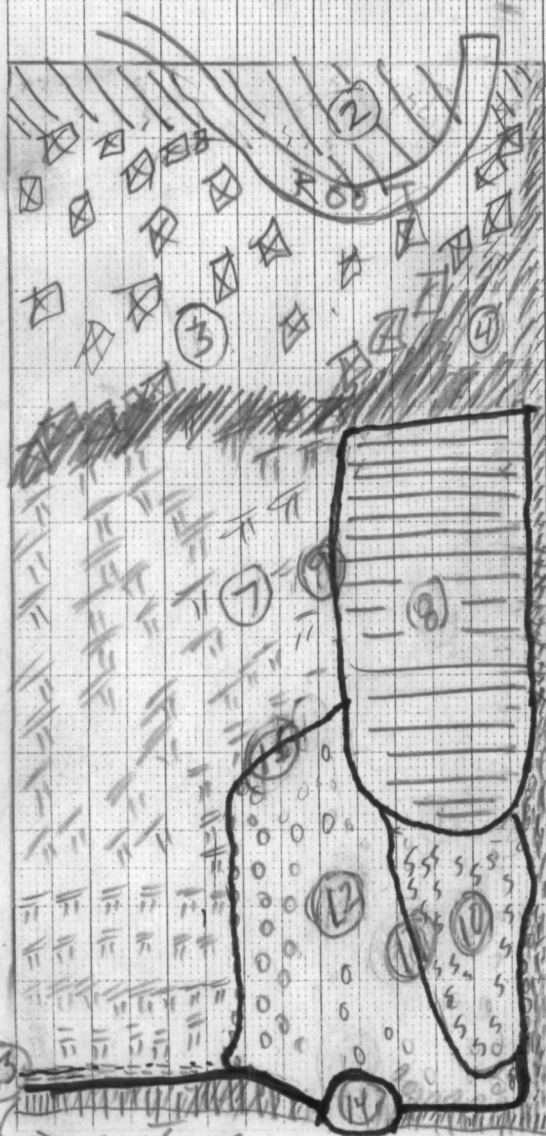
- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4^x
- 5

"natural"
layers

* 4 appears to be a
"transitional" layer

SECTION: EASTERN 7m. OF NORTH WALL OF E/W TRENCH

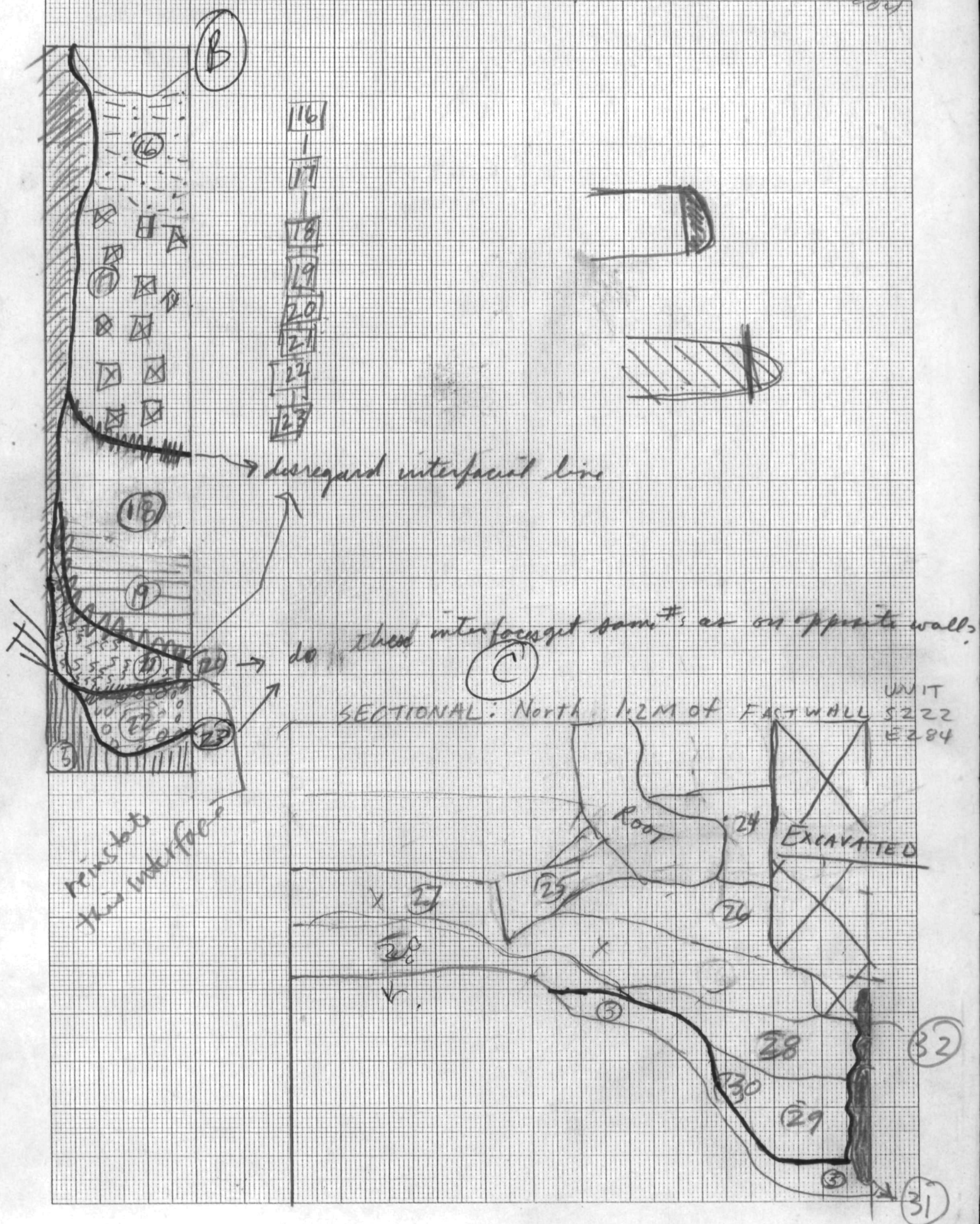
SCALE:
1cm = 10cm



→ natural
stratum (unexcavated)

→ bottom of excavation

5222
5222



WORKING DRAFT

ABSTRACT
COUNCIL ON NORTHEASTERN ARCHEOLOGY CONFERENCE

Seeing the Forest from the Trees: Putting Together the Early Manor at the Addison Plantation Site, 18 PR 175, Oxon Hill, Maryland.

Authors

Over the past three years John Milner Associates has conducted intensive archaeological investigations at the Addison Plantation site, 18 PR 175, in Oxon Hill, Maryland. One of the major finds has been an earthfast structure represented by a rubble filled cellar/passageway and numerous post features. These remains are believed to represent John Addison's manor house and may date to the 1690s. Extensive use and rebuilding in the area of the earthfast structure during the two hundred years in which the plantation was in operation ~~has produced palimpsest deposits that have~~ obscured the outline of the early manor. This paper discusses the nature of the physical evidence recovered from the early locus. It also presents the results of analysis that was undertaken to identify the structural components of the early manor.

FEATURE 6, EAST TO WEST TRENCH NORTH PROFILE

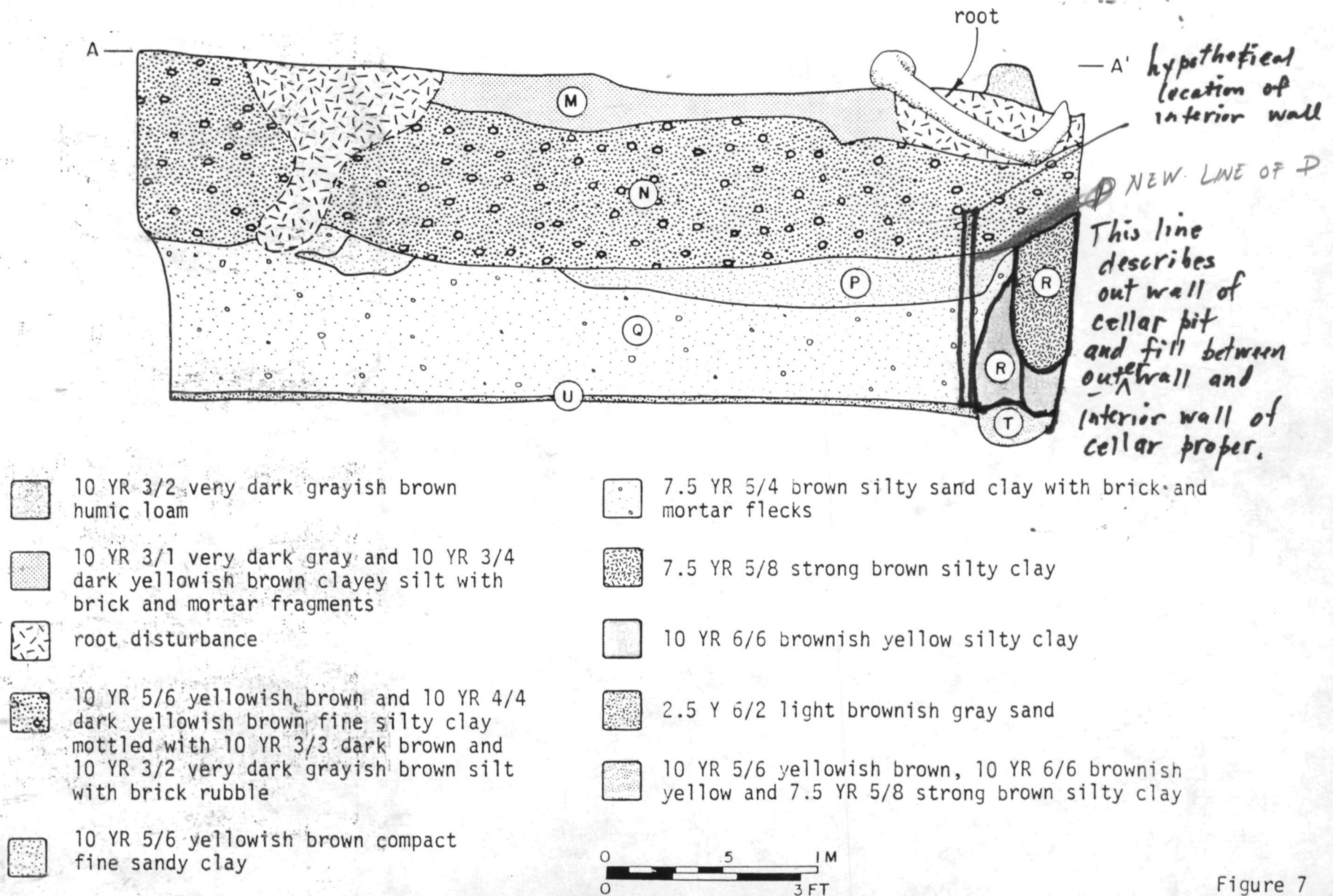


Figure 7